Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8094
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CGEN WB GE US UK FR

SUBJ: TERMINOLOGY FOR ALLIED EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) BERLIN 5953 (NOTAL); (B) BONN 7651

BEGIN SUMMARY. GIVEN CURRENT EFFORTS TO REJECT CLAIMS THAT EAST BERLIN IS A PART OF THE GDR, WE BELIEVE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO REQUIRING THE GDR TO CEASE REFERRING OFFICIALLY TO ALLIED EMBASSIES AS BEING "IN THE GDR." REQUEST REACTIONS TO THIS SUGGESTION FROM EMBASSY BERLIN AND THE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOLUTION PROPOSED BY EMBASSY BERLIN IN PARA 2, REF (A), SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM OF UNIFORM ALLIED USAGE OF TERMINOLOGY REFERRING TO WEST BERLIN. WE WILL NOT RETURN TO THE MATTER IN THE BONN GROUP UNLESS ONE OF THE OTHER REPS REOPENS THE QUESTION.

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2. WITH REGARD TO PARA 3, REF (A), WE BELIEVE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF CONTINUING TO ACCEPT NOTES FROM THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY ADDRESSED TO "THE EMBASSY OF THE USA IN THE GDR." WE RECALL THAT CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT WAS GIVEN TO NOMENCLATURE, BEFORE THE EMBASSY WAS OPENED, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED PUBLICLY THAT THE

EMBASSY WAS "TO THE GDR" BUT NOT "IN THE GDR." EMBASSY AND CONSULAR SEALS WERE, IF WE ARE NOT MISTAKEN, DEVISED ACCORDINGLY.

- 3. FOR THE USG TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT OFFICIAL GDR COMMUNICATIONS AS DESCRIBED IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE AMOUNT OF HIGH-LEVEL EFFORT WE ARE CURRENTLY DEVOTING TO REFUTING SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN CLAIMS THAT THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN IS IN THE GDR. EVEN THOUGH ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH NOTES HAS PRESUMABLY BEEN SANCTIONED BY LONG PRACTICE, IT WOULD SEEM TO US NOT AMISS TO REOPEN THE QUESTION.
- 4. WE BELIEVE THIS COULD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BE DONE IN A LOW KEY AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL MANNER. EITHER THE DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY BERLIN MIGHT POINT OUT QUIETLY TO AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL THAT THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE EMBASSY IS "THE EMBASSY OF THE USA TO THE GDR" AND ASK THAT THE GDR ADDRESS THE EMBASSY BY ITS OFFICIAL NAME IN THE FUTURE. IT WOULD SEEM UNNECESSARY IN SUCH AN INITIAL APPROACH TO GO INTO THE REASONS, WHICH WOULD IN ANY CASE BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE GDR.
- 5. SHOULD SUCH AN APPROACH NOT MEET WITH RESULTS, CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO A SECOND STAGE ATTACK, WHICH MIGHT CONSIST OF RETURNING ANY FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTES WHICH CONTINUED TO USE THE OBJECTIONABLE TERMINOLOGY.
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6. ANY SUCH APPROACH WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT WERE COORDINATED WITH THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE REACTIONS OF EMBASSY BERLIN AND THE DEPARTMENT TO THE IDEA AND GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER IN THE BONN GROUP. STOESSEL

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